

CLAIMS:

1. A composition comprising a reaction mixture comprising a complex of an NS1 protein of influenza virus, or a dsRNA binding fragment thereof, and a dsRNA of about 16 base pairs in length that binds said protein.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said NS1 protein is an NS1 protein of Influenza A (NS1A).
3. The composition of claim 2, comprising a dsRNA binding fragment of said NS1A protein.
4. The composition of claim 3, wherein said dsRNA binding fragment comprises amino acid residues 1-73 of NS1A.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein said NS1 protein is an NS1 protein of Influenza B (NS1B).
6. The composition of claim 5, comprising a dsRNA binding fragment of said NS1 B protein.
7. The composition of claim 6, wherein said dsRNA binding fragment comprises amino acid residues 1-93 of NS1B.
8. The composition of claim 1, wherein said dsRNA is formed by intramolecular base pairing within a single-stranded RNA molecule.
9. The composition of claim 1, wherein said dsRNA binding fragment comprises amino acid residues 1-73 of NS1A, and wherein said dsRNA is formed by intramolecular base pairing within a single-stranded RNA molecule.
10. The composition of claim 1, wherein said dsRNA binding fragment comprises amino acid residues 1-93 of NS1B.
11. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a compound being tested for inhibitory activity against influenza virus.
12. The composition of claim 1, wherein the NS1 protein or the dsRNA is detectably labeled.
13. A method of identifying compounds having inhibitory activity against an influenza virus, comprising:
 - a) preparing a reaction system comprising an NS1 protein of an influenza virus or a dsRNA binding domain

AMENDED SHEET